

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FS-01 PER-05 ABF-01 OPR-02 A-01 /016 W

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R 121120Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2164

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, GR, APER

SUBJECT: PROPOSED LOCAL WAGE SCHEDULE

USIA FOR IW/E

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NEA/EX AND EMBASSY CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING LOCAL WAGE COMPENSATION PLANS. IN SUBMITTING COMPLETE DETAILS OF WAGE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF WAGE SCHEDULE IN OM OF SEPTEMBER 25, EMBASSY ASSUMED IT HAD FURNISHED DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED IN PARA 2 OF STATE TELEGRAM 193364 AS SPECIFIED BY THE REGULATIONS. THESE MESSAGES CROSSED IN TRANSIT.

2. WE ARE APPARENTLY WRONG IN THIS ASSUMPTION BECAUSE RICHARD HELGERSON, COUNTRY DESK OFFICER (IW/E) USIA ARRIVED IN ATHENS ON JANUARY 8 AND WAS IMMEDIATELY ASKED BY USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEES ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE INCREASE IN LOCAL WAGE COMPENSATION. HE CALLED IW/E ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WHO SAID NEA/EX TOLD HIM ORALLY IT WAS PREPARED TO HELP BUT ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION IN ATHENS HAD NOT PROVIDED JUSTIFICATION. HELGERSON TOLD EMPLOYEES THAT BOTH EMBASSY AND USIA DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT WAGE PROBLEM AND MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO AMELIORATE PROBLEM IN FACE OF WORLD-WIDE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS FURNISHED NEA/EX EXTENSIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR RAISING WAGES FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN A TWO PHASE PROGRAM. THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAMS, OMS AND LETTERS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED ON THE SUBJECT:

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- A. LETTER GEANEAS TO HUNT, APRIL 10, 1973
- B. LETTER CHURCHILL TO GEANEAS, MAY 4, 1973
- C. ATHENS 6284 SEPTEMBER 7
- D. ATHENS 6600 SEPTEMBER 21
- E. ATHENS OM SEPTEMBER 25
- F. ATHENS 6904 OCTOBER 4
- G. ATHENS 6939 OCTOBER 5
- H. ATHENS 7816 NOVEMBER 9
- I. ATHENS 8515 DECEMBER 4
- J. ATHENS OM DECEMBER 11
- K. ATHENS 8781 DECEMBER 14
- L. ATHENS 8914 DECEMBER 20

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH PER/PPM/LP ON 3 JANUARY 1974, EMBASSY BUDGET OFFICER WAS INFORMED THAT UNDER CURRENT DECENTRALIZATION AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY LP WAS NOT REQUIRED TO REVIEW WORKSHEETS OF LOCAL COMPENSATION PLANS. FURTHER, AFTER REVIEW OF ATHENS OM OF SEPTEMBER 25 LP HAD INFORMED NEA/EX BY MEMO THAT IN SPITE OF ABSENCE OF WORK-SHEETS IF WAGE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN MANNER DESCRIBED AND WAGE SPECIALIST FROM DOD WERE USED IN COLLECTION, AND ANALYSIS OF SURVEY DATA AND DEVELOPMENT OF WAGE COMPENSATION PLAN, LP WAS SATISFIED THAT LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN ADEQUATELY JUSTIFIED.

5. EMBASSY IS UNDER CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF ALL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES FOR A WAGE INCREASE BECAUSE OF CONTINUING RISING COST OF LIVING. POST IS WILLING AND PREPARED TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION IF REQUIRED INCLUDING WORK-SHEETS AND ANALYSIS SHEETS SOME OF WHICH ARE IN GERMANY, TO SUPPORT AND EXPEDITE AUTHORIZATION TO INSTALL LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN. PLEASE ADVISE.

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